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Letter dated 11 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the People's Republic of China in April 2006 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

06-34826 (E) 230506

Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (April 2006)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the People's Republic of China in April 2006, the Security Council addressed a wide range of issues on its agenda, including Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Western Sahara, Iraq, the Middle East, Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

During the Chinese presidency, the Security Council held 25 meetings and 15 sessions of consultations of the whole. Eight resolutions and five presidential statements were adopted. The President also made four statements to the press on behalf of the Council.

On 4 April, the President briefed the press on the programme of work of the Council for the month. Through its website (www.china-un.org), the presidency published in a regular and timely manner the programme of work as well as activities carried out by the Council in April.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 17 April, the Council held an informal consultation on Côte d'Ivoire. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Pierre Schori, introducing the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/222), briefed the Council on the latest developments in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. He indicated that some encouraging prospects for advancing the peace process had emerged recently as a result of initiatives taken by the Prime Minister, Charles Konan Banny, with the support of the President, Laurent Gbagbo, and other Ivorian leaders. He also stressed that considerable challenges still lay ahead and urged the Ivorian sides to take further concrete and dynamic action to fully implement the road map for the peace process.

On 27 April, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by Charles Konan Banny, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, on the general situation in Côte d'Ivoire, which, he said, was relatively satisfactory. At the private meeting which followed, the Council members exchanged views with the Prime Minister. The members welcomed the recent positive developments in the peace process and called on all parties to fully and urgently fulfil the commitments they had made. In a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/20) adopted by the Council on the same day, the Council members commended Prime Minister Banny for his initiatives taken in cooperation with President Gbagbo, reiterated to him their full support, and invited

the Prime Minister to take immediately all the measures necessary to the simultaneous implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and identification operations.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 7 April, the Council held a brief consultation on a draft resolution concerning the temporary redeployment of military and civilian police personnel between the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), requested by the Secretary-General in his letter to the President of the Council dated 30 March 2006.

On 10 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1669 (2006), by which it decided to authorize the Secretary-General to redeploy temporarily a maximum of one infantry battalion, a military hospital and up to 50 military observers from ONUB to MONUC, until 1 July 2006, according to resolution 1650 (2005), and with the intention to renew such authorization according to future decisions by the Council concerning the renewal of the mandates of ONUB and MONUC.

On 25 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1671 (2006), authorizing the deployment of a European Union force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a period ending four months after the date of the first round of the presidential and parliamentary elections. By that resolution, the Council authorized the EU force to take all necessary measures, within its means and capabilities, to support MONUC to stabilize a situation, in case MONUC faced serious difficulties in fulfilling its mandate within its existing capabilities; to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence in the areas of its deployment; to contribute to airport protection in Kinshasa; to ensure the security and freedom of movement of personnel as well as the protection of the installations of the EU force; and to execute operations of limited character in order to extract individuals in danger. It urged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the European Union to conclude a status-of-forces agreement before the deployment. It also requested the European Union to report regularly to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the Council on the implementation of the mandate of the EU force.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

At the request of Council members, the President of the Council met with the Permanent Representative of Eritrea and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia on 6 April, to make clear the Council's position and concern about the safety of the personnel of the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) and the resumption of the demarcation process.

On 11 April, the Council had a brief consultation on a draft resolution on UNMEE. On 13 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1670 (2006), by which it decided to extend the mandate of UNMEE for a period of one month, until 15 May 2006. The Council also demanded that the parties fully comply with resolution 1640 (2005). The Council affirmed its intention, in the event it determined that the parties had not demonstrated full compliance with resolution 1640 (2005) by the beginning of May 2006, to review the mandate and troop level

of UNMEE by 15 May 2006, with a view to a decision on possible adjustments of UNMEE, including inter alia a transformation into an observer mission.

Sierra Leone

As a draft resolution was proposed on 30 March for the trial of Charles Taylor, the former President of Liberia, by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in International Criminal Court premises, the Council held several discussions, including an informal consultation on 10 April to exchange views on the text. The drafting was not finalized by the end of April.

Sudan

On 11 April, the President of the Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/16) on the situation in Darfur, the Sudan. In the statement, the Council expressed its regret at the decision of the Government of National Unity to deny the entry of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator to Darfur and called for an explanation. The Council also reiterated its full support for the inter-Sudanese peace talks on the conflict in Darfur in Abuja, endorsed the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council that 30 April was the final deadline for reaching an agreement; demanded that all parties make the necessary efforts to reach an agreement by that date; and called on all parties to ensure a smooth and successful transfer from the African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to a United Nations operation. In that regard, the Council stressed that a United Nations operation would have strong African participation and character, and called for a United Nations assessment mission to Darfur by 30 April.

On 18 April, the African Union Special Envoy and Chief Mediator for the inter-Sudanese talks in Abuja, Salim Ahmed Salim, briefed the Council at an open meeting, which was followed by a private meeting. He outlined the power-sharing, wealth-sharing and security arrangement proposals and said that the mediator and the parties were working "full steam ahead" to meet a 30 April deadline for a peace agreement. The Council members urged the parties to work hard to meet the deadline for a peace accord in Darfur.

On 25 April, the President of the Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/17), reiterating the full support of the Council for the African Union-led inter-Sudanese peace talks in Abuja on the Darfur conflict, welcoming the developments so far in the negotiations and urging the parties to make speedy progress in concluding a peace accord. The Council also reaffirmed its utmost concern over the dire consequences of the prolonged conflict in Darfur for the civilian population, as well as its concern that the persisting violence might further negatively affect the rest of the country and the region, including the security of Chad.

Also on 25 April, the Council adopted resolution 1672 (2006), by 12 votes in favour with three abstentions, by which it imposed the travel restrictions and financial sanctions specified in resolution 1591 (2005) on four Sudanese individuals. Four members made statements in explanation of vote.

On 26 April, the Council heard a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on two options for a possible transfer of responsibilities in Darfur from AMIS to an agile, capable and highly mobile United

Nations peacekeeping force. He also told the Council about the United Nations planning efforts for Darfur, including his own travels to the Sudan and Addis Ababa. The Council members thanked the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for its efforts and expressed the hope that the assessment mission would be sent to Darfur soon. On the same day, the Council also received a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, on the latest developments in the issue of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Chad/Sudan

On 13 April, the President of the Council read out a statement to the press, expressing deep concern regarding the deteriorating situation in Darfur and recent attacks by armed groups in Chad, condemning attacks on refugee camps and any attempt to seize power by force, and urging the Governments of the Sudan and Chad to respect the earlier peace agreement and implement commitments made. The Council also expressed support for the efforts of the African Union and urged the parties to the Abuja peace talks to conclude a peace agreement by 30 April as called for by the African Union Peace and Security Council.

On 18 April, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General in consultations on the deteriorating relations between Chad and the Sudan. The Secretary-General noted a letter dated 13 April from Chad about the repulsion of an attack against the country's capital and the capture of rebel fighters that the Government of Chad claimed included Sudanese members. The Secretary-General said he had intensified consultations with regional and other leaders in the quest for a peaceful and negotiated outcome. The Secretary-General added that it would be helpful if the international community spoke with one voice in opposing violence and promoting dialogue in the settlement of disputes within or between States. The Council members shared the concern and indicated that they would like to receive further information from the Secretary-General on the incidents in Chad.

On 25 April, the President of the Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/19), endorsing the Secretary-General's deep concern over the political and security situation along Chad's borders with the Sudan, as well as over the possible spillover effects of those crises on neighbouring countries and the entire region. The Council called on States in the region to cooperate in ensuring their common stability, urging Chad and the Sudan to abide by their obligations under the recent agreement and to refrain from any actions that violated the border.

Western Sahara

On 25 April, during informal consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations presented briefly the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2006/249) and updated the Council on recent activities carried out by the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). He considered that the stalemate in the long-standing issue was a matter of concern. He mentioned that violations of the ceasefire by both parties had decreased since the last reporting period, but that MINURSO continued to observe violations by both parties. He also called attention to the humanitarian situation in the area. The Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, briefed the Council on his recent activities and

observations. The Assistant Secretary-General and the Personal Envoy also responded to comments and questions from Council members.

On 28 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1675 (2006), by which the mandate of MINURSO was extended for a period of six months, until 31 October 2006. Eight members made statements in explanation of vote after the adoption of the resolution.

Briefings by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence of Uganda

On 19 April, the Council, at an open meeting, heard briefings from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence of Uganda, concerning the measures taken by the Government of Uganda in dealing with the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda and recent developments in the issue of the Lord's Resistance Army.

Following the open briefing, the Council held a private meeting, at which Council members welcomed the efforts made by the Government of Uganda in easing the humanitarian situation in the northern part of the country. Some members expressed their continuing concern about this issue. Members also condemned the atrocities perpetrated by LRA, and called for the international community to do more to help address the LRA issue.

Humanitarian situation in Africa

On 20 April, the Council was told by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, in closed-door consultations that the disastrous combination of a worsening humanitarian situation, government obstruction, rebel violence and weakened support of the international community had left relief operations in the Darfur region on the verge of breakdown, placing millions of people at risk. He also said that more pressure needed to be put on both the Government and the rebel movements to observe the ceasefire and reach a peace agreement. With regard to northern Uganda, he said that the situation was still bad, but he saw hope because the Government was working with the humanitarian community on a concrete action plan to improve conditions. He urged the Council to make sure this opportunity was not missed and to remain seized of the issue. Council members expressed concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation on the ground and urged all concerned to make efforts to improve it.

Asia

Iraq

On 17 April, the Council was orally briefed at consultations by Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, the High-level Coordinator on the issue of the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains. He told the Council that, owing to the difficult security situation in Iraq, there had been few substantial developments since the submission of his last report, in December 2005. The number of remains of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and missing persons remained unchanged. The number of mortal remains exhumed and brought to the country was higher. The fate of some 380 Kuwaiti and third-country missing

persons was still unknown. He valued the constructive stance taken by the new Iraqi authority and the role played by ICRC. Following the consultations, the President issued a statement to the press, voicing confidence that all parties could work towards a satisfactory solution to all of the outstanding humanitarian aspects covered by Ambassador Vorontsov's mandate.

Following the briefing, the Council was also updated by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Lisa Buttenheim, on the Iraq-Kuwait boundary maintenance project. She described the results of the assessment mission related to the project and the process that led to its development. She also expressed the hope on behalf of the Secretary-General that the project, for the repair of the physical representation of the boundary with the participation of both Governments, would be a confidence-building measure that would contribute to the normalization of relations between the two Governments and that the parties would be able to establish their own mechanism to undertake maintenance of the boundary following implementation of the project.

On 25 April, the President issued a statement to the press, welcoming the election of the Presidency Council, Speaker and Deputy Speakers of the Council of Representatives, as well as the nomination of Jawad al-Maliki as Prime Minister, and expressing the hope that the constitutionally elected Government of Iraq could now rapidly be formed, and stressing the importance of that Government being as broad based, representative and effective as possible.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 13 April, the Council held informal consultations in which Qatar introduced a draft presidential statement on the recent escalation of violence in the Middle East. Because of different national positions, the Council failed to agree on it.

On 17 April, upon requests from Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Yemen (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) and Malaysia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the Council held a public meeting on the situation in the Middle East. Thirty-three speakers addressed the Council. Most representatives condemned the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv on 17 April. Many of them expressed alarm at the recent deterioration of the situation in the region, and urged Israel and the Palestinian Authority to exercise restraint and do their utmost to curb attacks and counter-attacks that could undermine a return to the peace process. The Council failed to reach agreement on a draft statement to the press proposed by the United States.

On 24 April, at an open meeting, the Council heard the monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Alvaro de Soto. He said that the international community was witnessing a potentially dangerous deterioration of the situation in the Israel-Palestinian conflict. He also outlined three major challenges the conflict between Israel and Palestine was facing and touched briefly upon the situation in Lebanon. Afterwards, members of the Council held informal consultations and agreed in general with the assessment of the situation by the Special Coordinator.

Lebanon

On 21 April, the Council heard a briefing at an open meeting by the Prime Minster of Lebanon, Fouad Siniora, on the latest developments in his country. The Council was told that, after many years of civil strife, Israeli occupation and Syrian domination, Lebanon had made important strides on the road towards self-governance, stability, democracy and prosperity, while acknowledging that there were also other difficult issues to be taken up. The Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic also addressed the meeting, expressing regret over rumours that there was tension between the fraternal countries and stressing that relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon were dictated by their history and geography and no external factor could separate them. The Council then continued the discussions with the Prime Minister at a private meeting.

On 26 April, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen, briefed the Council in closed-door consultations on the third semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2006/248). He said that the Lebanese had made significant progress towards implementing in full all provisions of resolution 1559 (2004), in particular through the agreements reached in the national dialogue in Lebanon. However, he added that resolution 1559 (2004) had not yet been implemented, for example with respect to the disbanding of all Lebanese militias, the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all its territory and strict respect for the political independence of the country. He appealed to all parties concerned to comply with all requirements of resolution 1559 (2004) without delay and fully implement it, and believed that the implementation of the resolution and all other relevant resolutions should proceed in a way that would best ensure the stability and unity of Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the wider region. Afterwards, members of the Council held informal consultations.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 18 April, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, during which the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, briefed the Council on the recent work of his office. He considered that there were three priorities in 2006 for Bosnia and Herzegovina, namely, constitutional reform, the general elections in October and the ongoing stability and association agreement negotiations with the European Union. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Adnan Terzic, also attended the meeting and addressed the Council. He mentioned that the clear goal of Bosnia and Herzegovina was achievement of full integration of the country in the Euro-Atlantic and European communities. Both the High Representative and the Chairman raised the issue of de-certification of police officers by the International Police Task Force and called for the Council's attention. Some members made comments or raised questions, and expressed appreciation and support for the work of the High Representative.

Americas

Haiti

On 25 April, under "Other matters" during informal consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed Council members on the second round of legislative elections in Haiti, held on 21 April. After the consultations, the President issued a statement to the press commending the Haitian people for their participation in the elections and welcoming the calm manner in which the voting was conducted. While acknowledging that elections were a major step in Haiti's political transition, the members of the Council recognized that addressing the country's many long-term challenges would require close cooperation between the Haitian authorities and the international community.

Other issues

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Following receipt of a letter dated 27 March 2006 transmitted by the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council regarding a request from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the extension of the term of office of an ad litem judge, on 10 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1668 (2006), by which it decided that Judge Joaquín Canivell could continue to sit in the Krajišnik case beyond April 2006 and see the case through to its completion, although the cumulative period of his service in the Tribunal as an ad litem judge would then exceed three years. The President of the Council transmitted resolution 1668 (2006) to the President of the General Assembly on the same day.

Working methods of the Council

On 20 April, upon the request of the President of the Council and as agreed by all Council members, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima of Japan, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, made a statement on the work of the Working Group to the Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council.

Ad hoc mechanism on mandate review

On 24 April, under "Other matters", at informal consultations, the Council members decided to establish an ad hoc mechanism to deal with issues concerning mandate review within the Security Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1). Council members also welcomed Slovakia and the United States to the positions of co-Chairmen of the ad hoc mechanism.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 25 April, the President of the Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/18) concerning the terrorist bombing in Dahab, Egypt, on 24 April.

In the statement, the Council condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist acts and expressed its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, and underlined the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these intolerable acts to justice. The Council also reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

On 27 April, during informal consultations, the Council heard a briefing by Ambassador Peter Burian, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and Permanent Representative of Slovakia, on the work of the Committee. The Council also examined the report of the Committee (S/2006/257). At the formal meeting which followed, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1673 (2006) on the extension of the mandate of the Committee for a period of two years, until 27 April 2008.

On 28 April, the President of the Council circulated a letter from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) enclosing a report on the process of Iranian compliance with the steps required by the Board of Governors of IAEA as requested in the statement by the President of the Council of 29 March 2006 (S/PRST/2006/15).

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 28 April, after thorough discussions, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1674 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, in which it expressed its deep regret that civilians accounted for the vast majority of casualties in situations of armed conflict, recalled the particular impact which armed conflict had on women and children, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as on other civilians who might have specific vulnerabilities, and stressed the protection and assistance needs of all affected civilian populations. The Council reaffirmed relevant principles and demanded relevant actions for addressing the several aspects of the issue of protection of civilians in armed conflict, as laid out in the resolution.